

Fresno, CA - Today, Congressman Jim Costa (CA-20) announced his support for the Executive Order creating "A California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley." This partnership will bring together various government and private entities committed to bringing about economic growth and prosperity within the San Joaquin Valley.

"This is an exciting opportunity for several entities to bring their diverse knowledge to the drawing board and rededicate themselves to implementing a plan for revitalizing the San Joaquin Valley," Congressman Costa stated.

All members of the partnership will be appointed by the Governor and will include eight state government officials, eight private sector employees, and two deputy chairs. Various state officials will also serve as ex officio members.

Those involved on the Federal level will include the state's Congressional Representatives and the federal Task Force for the Economic Recovery of the San Joaquin Valley. Together these groups will promote projects with the federal government that the Partnership has deemed necessary in the area.

The Partnership will look to the University of California, California State University, California Community Colleges and other educational institutions and private foundations to provide a framework for supplemental studies that will be helpful in identifying areas and ways of improvement.

"Building working relationships with various governmental and nongovernmental agencies and valuing the input of these various agencies is a step in the right direction toward improving our Valley's economy. Together we will have a better ability to advocate on behalf of the San Joaquin Valley," Congressman Costa concluded.